(c) and (d) Some of the major countries which exports cotton and the quantum of cotton exported by each of those countries during the last three years are as under:—

(In thousand Metric tons)

Name of Country	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Argentina	290	220	166
Australia	519	575	650
Greece	195	187	230
Mali	179	193	215
Syria	186	230	180
U.S.A.	1,495	1,633	915
Uzbekistan	1,042	1,050	900

Handing Over of N.T.C. Mills to States

5633. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any decision to hand over all the mills functioning under National Textile Corporation to the States concerned to make them financially viable without putting any additional burden; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) In September 1997, the Government of India had offered to the State Governments where the NTC mills are situated, all the assets of the NTC alongwith all the mills situated in the respective States at a nominal cost or even free of cost provided the State Governments are willing to accept the responsibility of running the viable mills and protecting the interest of the workers. The Government of India was also willing to write off/ waive the loans given by the Government of India/NTC (Holding

company) to these mills and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS already paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement and to discharge the liabilities towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers.

None of the State Governments have responded positively to the proposal so far.

Market for Cotton Procurement in A.P.

5634. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a cotton procurement market for buying cotton at Jadcheralla in Mahaboob Nagar district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in processing; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative the reasons for shelving the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) There was proposal, in December, 1998, from Shri Ravi Mallu, Member of Parliament for establishment of purchase centre of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) at Jadcheralla in Mahaboob Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh and he was informed that the market yard at Jadcheralla was functioning two days a week and that the representative of CCI remain present at the time of auction at the market yard. At present, the CCI is operating at Jadcheralla (Badepalli market yard) as "satellite centre" to its Shadnagar centre.

Purchase of Hindi Typewriters

†5635. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.